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### THE ENGLISH CENSUS.

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The report of the committee appointed by the Treasury to inquire into certain questions connected with the taking of the English census includes among its recommendations the following:—

“(a) that the number of the population, and its distribution as regards ‘age and sex, be ascertained midway between the decennial periods at which a full census is taken;”

“(c) that if the enumeration be taken more frequently than hitherto a small permanent census branch of the department of the Registrar-General be established in England, if not also in Scotland and Ireland;

“(d) that, except to the extent to which second division clerks may be employed under the conditions which have been proposed by the Registrar-General for England, the census clerks selected for employment under that officer be chosen by open competition within suitable limits of age;

“(e) that the special attention of superintendent registrars and registrars be called to the importance of a very careful selection of enumerators;

“(f) that, in addition to the information hitherto obtained, columns be added to the householders’ schedule for enabling persons to be returned either as employers, employed, or neither employers nor employed, the propriety of publishing such returns to be a matter for subsequent determination;

“(g) that the term ‘rank’ be omitted from the column hitherto provided for ‘rank, profession, or occupation’;

“(h) that persons following no occupation, but deriving an income from property and other sources of a permanent character, be so returned, and that they be separately tabulated in the published reports;

“(i) that provision be made at the foot of the householders’ schedule for a statement as to whether the number of rooms occupied is less than five, the actual number in that case to be given, the publication of the results to be afterwards decided as under (f).”

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### TABULAR STANDARD OF VALUE.

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At the recent September meeting of the British Association the following proposal for an official index number to serve as a tabular

standard of value was submitted by a committee appointed for that purpose.

“(1) A special commission to be appointed to collect prices of such principal articles of production and consumption as may, from time to time, be directed by Order in Council.

“(2) The commission is to appoint inspectors of prices in towns, and to direct by Order in Council that persons buying and selling in these towns, &c., are to make returns in the prescribed form to the inspector.

“(3) Persons failing to make a return, or making a false return, are to be liable to a penalty of £20 on conviction.

“(4) The commission shall publish, from time to time, in the *Gazette*, in the prescribed form, the prices so obtained.

“(5) The commission shall also publish a statement of the average prices of each of the specified articles for the ten years immediately preceding and for each of these years; and the prices so declared shall be taken to be the par prices for the purpose of this Act.

“(6) In January the commission shall publish the prices for the previous year; and a table of the proportion of these prices to the par prices, each of the par prices being reckoned for this purpose as 100, and the proportion in each case being stated in the form of the proportion to 100. The sum of these proportions shall also be stated. The table may be divided into parts, and the sum of the proportions in each part stated separately. The sum of the par prices, each reckoned as 100, shall be called the par index-number, and the proportionate index-number for each year: and the sum of the par prices for each part, and of the proportions in each year, shall be called the par index-number, and the proportionate index-number for each part.

“(7) It shall be lawful in all contracts for payments in money to express that the payment is to be made for a given year in the proportionate index-number for that year, either for the whole of the said table or for a part of it, and thereupon payment may be made in such sum of sterling money as will correspond in respect of the sum contracted to be paid to the proportion which the proportionate index-number bears to the par index-number.

“(8) Unless where stipulated to the contrary, all pensions, annuities, and salaries receivable and payable by the government, and which may be fixed after the passing of this Act, shall be paid in the proportionate index-number.

“(9) New articles may be introduced into the list and the table, from time to time, by Order in Council.”